(c) what facilities and funds have been provided if at all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the Eleventh plan, Scheme for promotion of good harvesting practices, value addition and setting up of medicinal plants processing zones through National Medicinal Plants Board is on the avail to provide better market linkages to farmers.

Rapes in Government hospitals

2686. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some rapes have taken place in Government hospitals in the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new born children have been kidnapped from some of the hospitals and if so, the details of such incident in different States in-the last 12 months; and

(c) what action has been taken to see that such incidents do not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There have been no instances of rape and kidnapping of newborn children in any Central Government Hospital in Delhi during last one year. However, to prevent such incident, sufficient number of security guards have been deployed in all sensitive areas of hospitals.

Metal content in medicines

2687. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia and other countries have warned their citizens against using unapproved traditional medicines from India on account of its metal content;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not mandatory to test the metal content in the traditional drugs meant for human use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After publication of an article in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) some regulatory agencies in other countries like Australia, US and UK have issued health alerts regarding Ayurvedic/Unani medicines due to alleged presence of heavy metals above permissible limits.

(c) and (d) The manufacturers of the medicines against whom health alerts have been issued by regulatory agencies of other countries have been asked to get their